underneath surface features at Burhar mines without disturbing safety.

iv. Monitoring of behaviour of roof and support at two mechanised Longwall faces in Eastern coalfields resulting in increased production of coal.

v. Evolved a techique for draining out the methane gas from underground mines and storing it at the surface for domestic use. This was demonstrated at Sawang Colleiry.

vi. Conducted experiment at Jitpur Colliery proving that infusion of silicic acid gel can be an effective method for reducing spontaneous heating of coal.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) These techniques have been implemented and adopted by the respective collieries.

Vacant Post of Director in Mehta Research Institute of Mathematics, Allahabad

2751. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mehta Research Institute of Mathematics and Mathematical Physics, Allahabad has no Director at present;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the staff working in the Institute is not adequate and the research work done there is not of high quality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes Sir, the Institute has no Director at present.

(b) Efforts are being made to find a suitable person to head the Institute.

(c) The total number of scientific staff engaged in research work in the Institute is five. Even with this small team of researchers, the Institute has been active in many areas of mathematics, particularly combinatorics, graph theory, summability, operator theory and control theory.

Fire practice range of Bofors Gun in Sivalik Hills

2752. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the firing practice range for the Bofors Guns in the Sivalik Hills adjoining the Rajaji National Park at Dehradun has been opposed by the wild life experts;

(b) whether it is a fact that according to the international wild life rules human intrusion within a 10 Km radius of the national park boundaries is prohibited; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Sivalik Hills are ecologically fragile to stand the heavy pounding of the Howitzers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES

IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) There is no firing practice range for the Bofors Guns in the Sivalik Hills adjoining the Rajaji National Park. There are two firing practice ranges in the Sivalik Hills Area, namely, Raipur Range and Asan Range, which are far away from the Rajaji National Park. Government have received no complaint about firing practice in these two ranges.

(b) Government are not aware of any such international wild life rules.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Sivalik area is reported to be a fragile ecological zone.

Clearance of Sunderbans Delta Project

2753. SHRI RAM NARAYAN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sunderbans Delta Project of West Bengal is lying with the Central Government ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay to clear the project ;

(c) when it was received; and

(d) by when it is likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d) The Government of West Bengal has to modify the Report based on the results of the model study for dependable quantification of the likely siltation in the post-project condition.

Threat to Rail Lines and National Highways by Ganga Erosion

2754. SHRI RAM NARAYAN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that railway lines and national highways in the Murshidabad area were being threatened by the Ganga erosion ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) steps to be taken by the Government to protect these which are now being threatened by erosion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Railways have executed the necessary works at an expenditure of about Rs. 2 crores. In addition, the Ministry of Railways have agreed to share expenditure upto Rs. 2.54 crores, as a one-time measure, when the Government of West Bengal take up the bank protection works in the vulnerable reaches at Sankopara, Durgapur and Bajitpur.

Threat to Feeder Canal between the Ganga and the Bhagirathi

2755. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the feeder canal between the Ganga and the Bhagirathi had been threatened ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and